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Informational meeting planned on proposed coal mine

Fri, 08/24/2012 - 5:32pm | [Tracy Moss](#) ^[1], staff writer, [The News-Gazette](#) ^[2]

URBANA — Local residents concerned about a proposed coal mine in Champaign and Vermilion counties are inviting the public to attend an informational meeting Monday night in Urbana.

Scott Dossett of Urbana is a local resident concerned about the proposed mine, and he said the informational meetings, like this one, that have been held in the area to inform people about Sunrise Coal's plans.

The Prairie Rivers Network, Stand Up To Coal and concerned citizens have held similar informational meetings in Homer and Ogden, but this will be the first in Urbana.

The meeting will be at 7 p.m. Monday at the Wesley United Methodist Church, 1203 W. Green St., U.

Concerned citizens as well as representatives of the Prairie Rivers Network and Stand Up To Coal will be at Monday night's meeting to answer questions and discuss the issues. Stakeholders of these groups are concerned about how the mine could affect local water resources and the farm ground under which the mine would be located, among other environmental concerns.

Sunrise Coal, based in Terre Haute, Ind., has applied for permits from the state of Illinois to mine coal in an area covering a large portion of southwestern Vermilion County and a smaller portion of southeastern Champaign County near Homer. Sunrise has asked the village of Homer if it can supply the mine with the hundreds of thousands of gallons of water it would need on a daily basis in the mining process. Homer officials are currently studying whether they can meet that request.

Dossett said Monday's meeting will dovetail with Sunday's Quad Day on the UI campus where Students for Environmental Concerns will have a table.

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